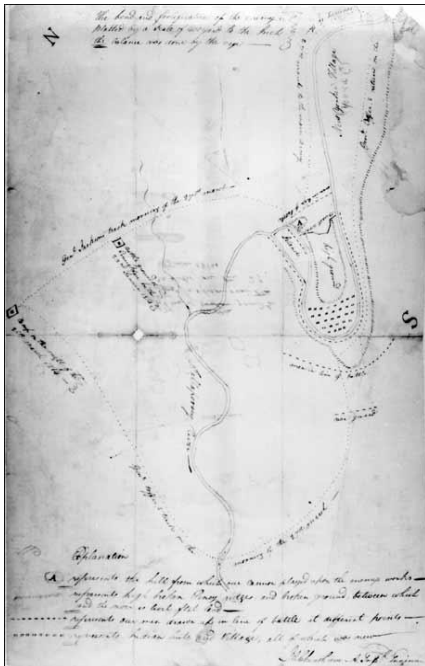


Horseshoe Bend National Military Park

In eastern Alabama, the Tallapoosa River bends back nearly upon itself. In 1814, within the horseshoe-shaped bend, was the site of the Tohopeka village of the Upper Creek people. In addition to women, old men, and children, the village held 1,000 warriors known as Red Sticks. The Red Sticks were resistant to American expansion into their lands, and so, allied themselves with the British and the Spanish during the War of 1812.

At mid-morning on March 27, 1814, General (and future President) Andrew Jackson and his army of over 3,000 men attacked the village. Between an artillery barrage, a cavalry charge, and a bayonet charge, at least 800 Red Sticks were killed, the largest loss of Native American life in a single battle in this nation's history.



The Red Sticks' principal leader, Menawa (Great Warrior), was seriously wounded, but survived to escape with the remaining 200 warriors. These Creeks joined with the Seminoles in Spanish Florida, and later participated in the First Seminole War. Although this small band held continued to resist against American encroachment, this battle effectively ended the Creek War. The Creeks were forced to cede at least 20 million acres of land to the U.S. government, out of which the modern-day state of Alabama was created.

You can learn more about this battle:

www.nps.gov/hobe/

*Map drawn by Colonel John A. Cheatham, Jackson's topographical engineer.
Courtesy: National Archives*